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Spy Book's Author Wins Legal Battle in Australia

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J SYDNEY, March 13 (Friday)—
Former British counterintelligence
official Peter Wright today won his
18-month legal battle against Brit-
ish Prime Minister Margaret
Thatcher's efforts to prevent him
from publishing his memoirs.

The supreme court of the Aus-
tralian state of New South Wales
rejected the British government's
appeal to stop publication of
Wright's book "Spycatcher," which
deals mainly with Soviet penetra-
tion of the British counterespionage
agency MI5.

Judge Philip Powell, in his 275-
page judgment, ordered the British
government to pay all legal costs to
Wright. He also said Wright could
lodge a claim for damages.

British High Commissioner Sir
John Leahy, who was in court for
the judgment, said Whitehall would

decide within the next week wheth-
er to appeal.

Wright, 71, a retired high-rank-
ing MI5 officer, was admitted to a
hospital four days ago with high
blood pressure and a heart condi-
tion and was not present in court
today.

Powell's ruling lifted a temporary
injunction on Heinemann Australia
Proprietary Ltd. from publishing
the manuscript, which claims that
the late MI5 chief, Sir Roger Hollis,
was a Soviet mole.

Hollis played a key role in setting
up the Australian Security and In-
telligence Organization (ASIO) and
the Australian Security Intelligence
Service (ASIS) after World War II.

Powell said he based his judg-
ment on the question of whether
Australia's national security would
be damaged by the publication of
Wright's book.